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# Detroit Library Commission

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Edward S. Piggins, *Secretary*

Paul R. Gray

Ralph Phelps

Charles R. Robertson

Adam Strohm, *Librarian*



# *Preface*

THE rapid growth of the city during the last decade called for an expansion of municipal activities along various lines and the Public Library responding to the call has established a number of agencies for widening the circle of its activities. Branch Libraries have been erected according to a deliberate program of strategy and at this date, eleven branches are in full swing, nine of them being located in their own buildings. Five of these new quarters were acquired through the munificence of Mr. Andrew Carnegie with the city furnishing generous sites. For two of the branches, the city has defrayed the cost in toto while two have come into being through private generosity.

The branches now in operation represent an investment of approximately a half-million dollars, an annual circulation of 600,000 issues and a personnel of about sixty library attendants.

It may be of considerable interest to the citizens of Detroit to have before them at least a partial record of the modern library facilities at their service and it may also in a measure illustrate the economic requirements of the library system, cost of maintenance, books and organization.

## Chauncy Hurlbut Branch

*1898*

A one room, memorial building in Gladwin Park.

Source—Gift: Chauncy Hurlbut Estate.



# John S. Gray Branch

*Erected 1906*

*Remodeled and Enlarged 1913*

Location—Field and Agnes Avenues.

Dimensions—Lot 80' front x 180' deep.  
Building 72' x 75'.

Architecture—Modified modern Italian.

Construction—Foundation: Concrete footings, brick walls. Gray brick, trimmed with sandstone.

Roof—Slate.

Heating—Steam.

Ventilation—Mechanical.

Lighting—Semi-indirect electric.

Woodwork—Tinted oak.

Basement—Auditorium (capacity 400), Club room, Boiler room, Janitor's quarters.

Main floor—General Reading room, Children's room, Librarian's office, Staff room.

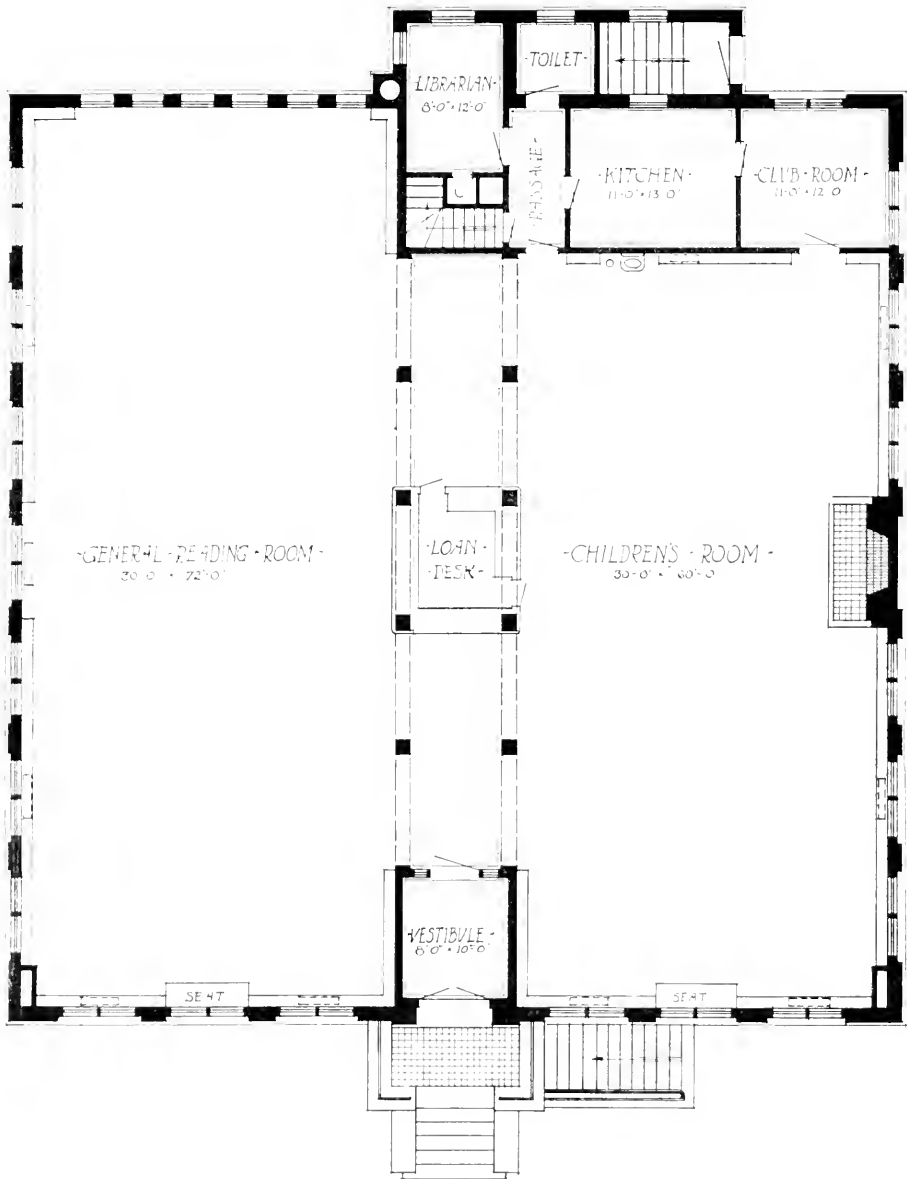
Source—City appropriation.

Cost—Original, \$9,750.00

Remodeling, \$20,332.81

Architects—Malcomson & Higginbotham.





John S. Gray Branch

# James E. Scripps Branch

*1908-9*

Location—Scripps Park.

Dimensions—Park 1.333 acres. Building—remodeled residence—100' x 39'.

Construction—Foundation: Concrete footings, stone walls and piers. Brick and sandstone trimming.

Roof—Slate.

Heating—Steam.

Ventilation—Natural.

Lighting—Direct electric.

Woodwork—Red oak.

Basement—Store room, Boiler room, Janitor's quarters.

Main floor—General Reading room, Children's room, Librarian's office.

Second floor—Auditorium (capacity 200), Club rooms, Staff room.

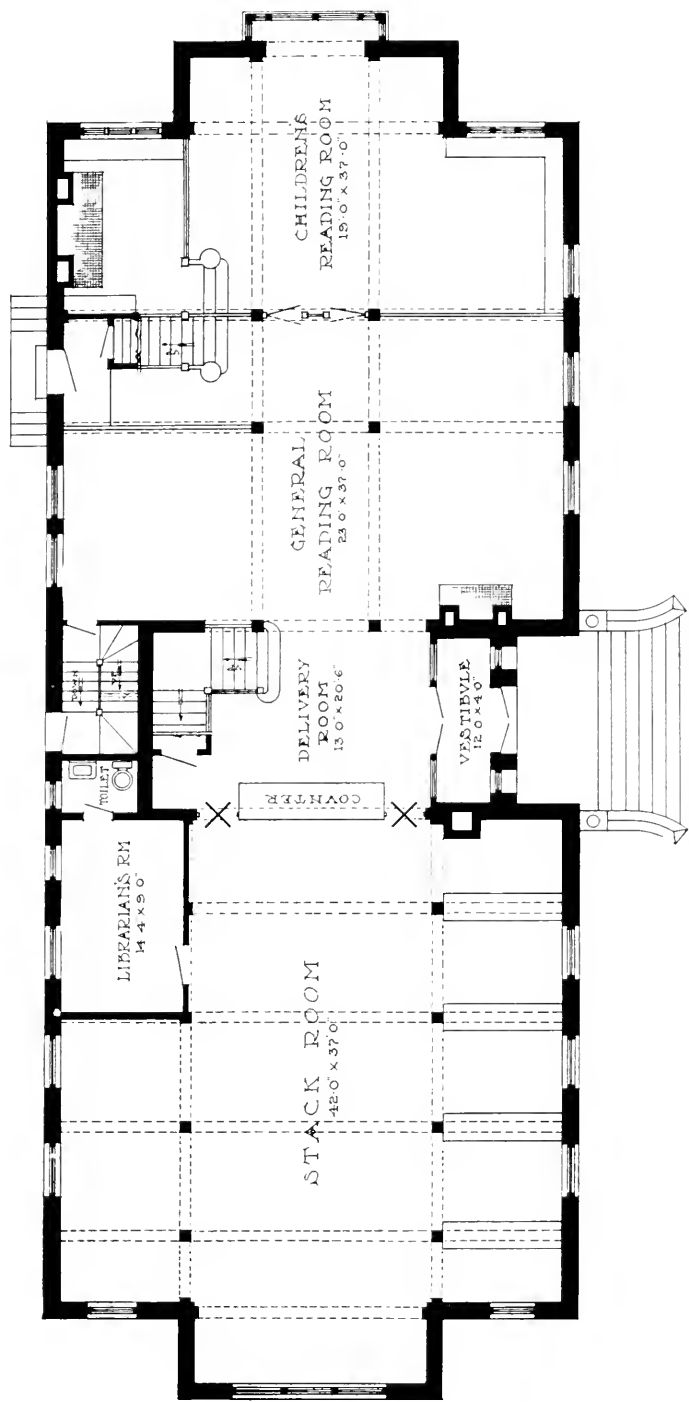
Third floor—Store rooms, Mending room.

Source—Gift: The James E. Scripps heirs.

Cost of remodeling—\$27,140.40.

Architects—Smith, Hinchman & Grylls.





James E. Scripps Branch

# George S. Hosmer Branch

*Erected 1910-11*

Location—Gratiot Avenue and Pulford Street.

Dimensions—Lot (irregular) 82' front x 103' deep (west side) x 159' deep (east side) x 80' (rear).

Building 72' x 49'.

Architecture—Italian Renaissance.

Construction—Foundation: Brick and concrete. Kittanning brick and Bedford stone.

Roof—Composition.

Heating—Steam.

Ventilation—Natural.

Lighting—Direct electric.

Woodwork—Red oak finish.

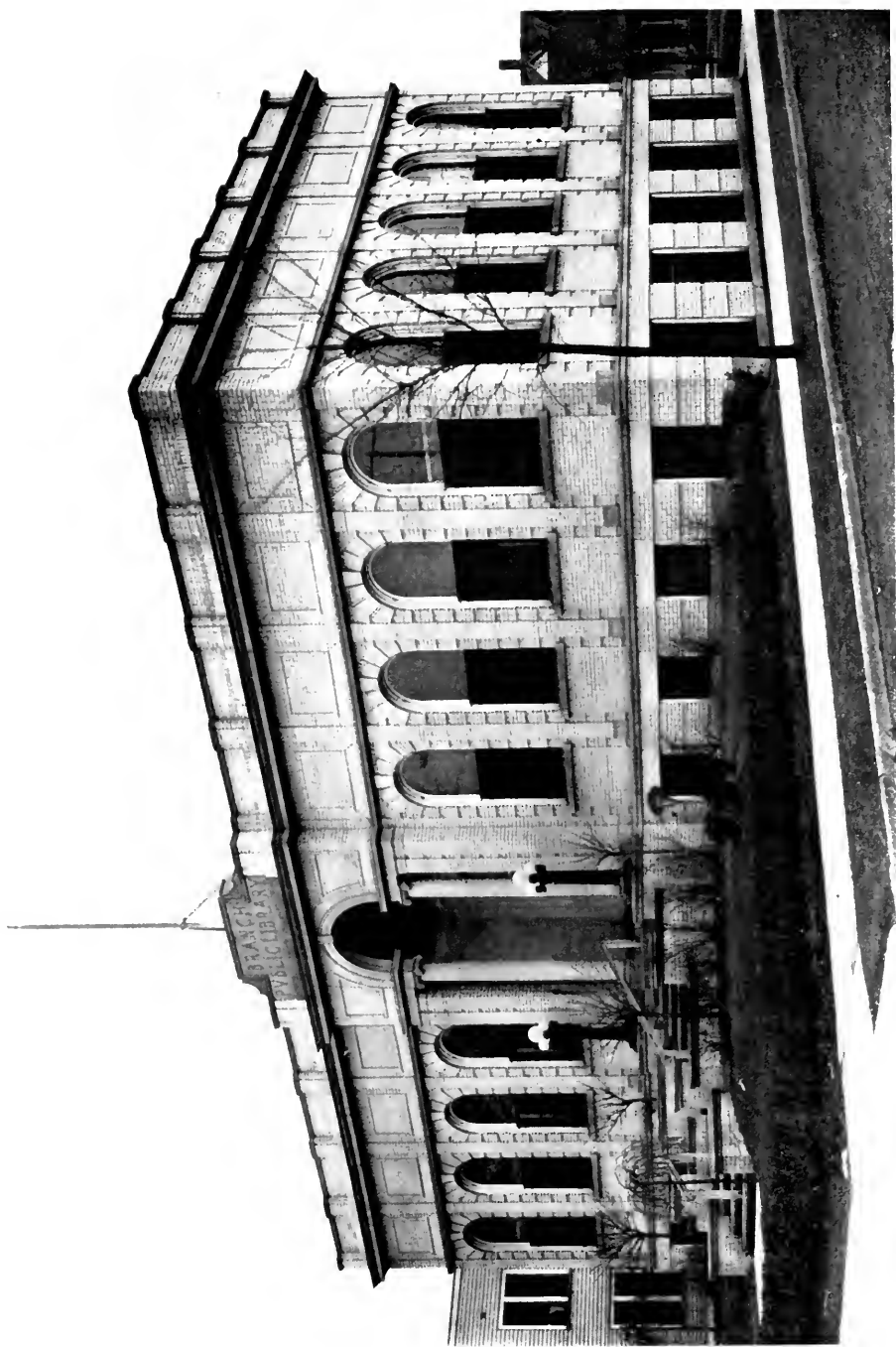
Basement—Auditorium (capacity 200), Club room, Staff room, Boiler room.

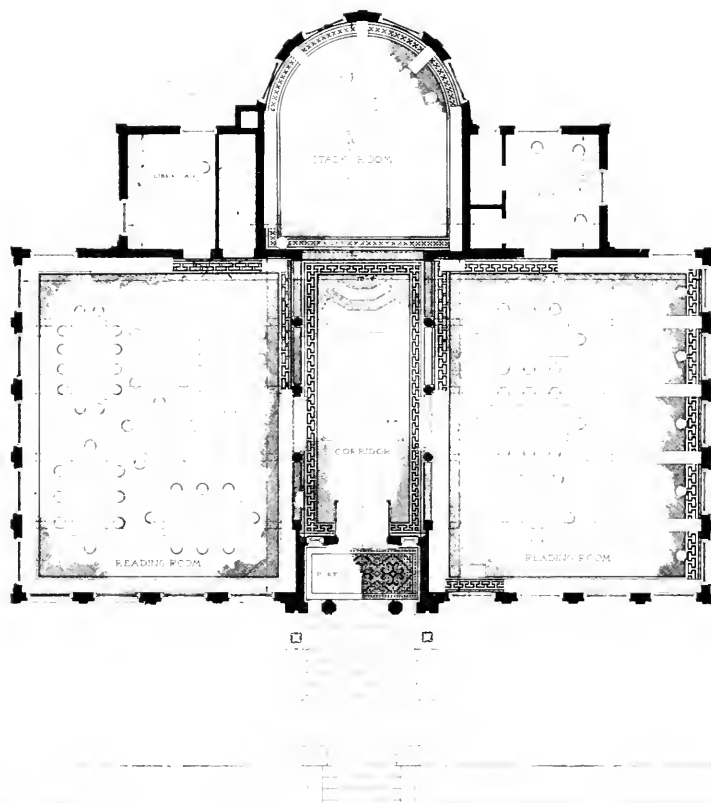
Main floor—General Reading room, Children's room, Reference room, Librarian's office, Staff room.

Source—City appropriation.

Cost—\$24,543.90.

Architect—Louis Kamper.





George S. Hosmer Branch

# George V. N. Lothrop Branch

*Erected 1911-12*

Location—West Warren Avenue and Grand Boulevard.

Dimensions—Lot 180' front x 130' deep.  
Building 99' x 64'6".

Architecture—Georgian period.

Construction—Foundation: Brick and concrete. Brick, stone and reinforced concrete. Cork tile and Terrazzo flooring.

Roof—Slate.

Heating—Direct and indirect steam.

Ventilation—Indirect steam.

Lighting—Direct electric.

Woodwork—Fumed oak.

Basement—Boiler room, Mending room, Store room.

Main floor—General Reading room, Reference room, Children's room, Librarian's office, Staff room, Auditorium (capacity 100), Reading porch.

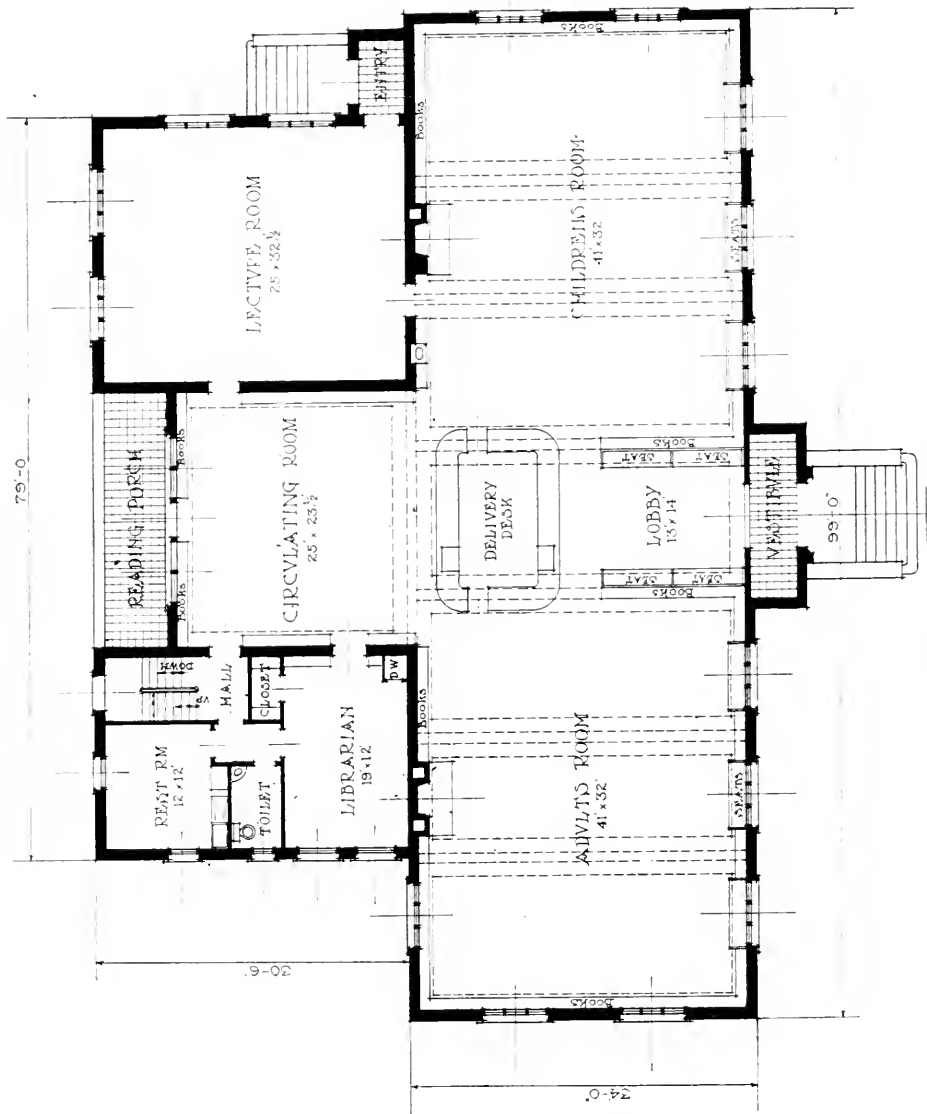
Mezzanine floor—Club room, Rest room, Gallery.

Source—Gift: Andrew Carnegie.

Cost—\$40,000.

Architect—B. C. Wetzel.





George V. N. Lothrop Branch

# Herbert Bowen Branch

*Erected 1911-12*

Location—Dix Avenue and West Grand Boulevard.

Dimensions—Lot 175' front x 130' deep.  
Building 103' x 73'8".

Architecture—English collegiate.

Construction—Foundation: Reinforced concrete. Interior walls hollow tile; exterior, buff Ohio stone and red vitrified brick.

Roof—Slate.

Heating—Steam.

Ventilation—Large skylights; radiators connected with outside air, giving indirect ventilation; also by motor driven fan.

Lighting—Incandescent electric in indirect fixtures.

Woodwork—Quartered oak, pearl gray finish.

Basement—Boiler room, Mending room, Store room.

Main floor—General Reading room, Children's room, Auditorium (capacity 150), Librarian's office, Staff room.

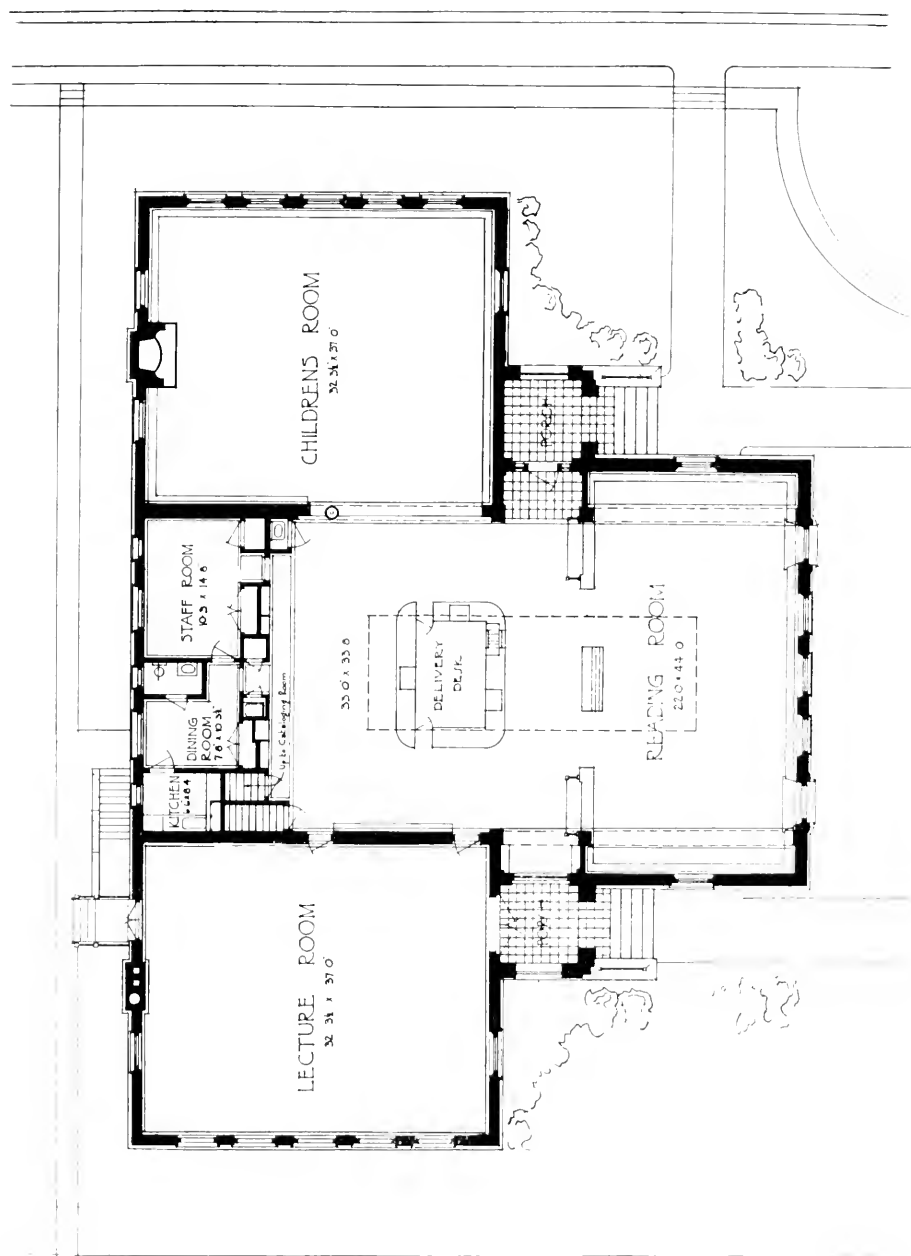
Mezzanine floor—Catalogue room.

Source—Gift: Andrew Carnegie.

Cost—\$40,000.

Architect—W. B. Stratton.





Herbert Bowen Branch

# Henry M. Utley Branch

*Erected 1912-13*

Location—Woodward Avenue, between  
Alger and King Avenues.

Dimensions—Lot 246' front x 200' deep.  
Building 120'8" x 92'4".

Architecture—Classical.

Construction—Foundation: Concrete and  
brick. Pressed brick and limestone.

Roof—Copper.

Heating—Steam.

Ventilation—Johnson's fan system.

Lighting—Indirect electric.

Woodwork—Oak finish.

Basement—Boiler room, Mending room,  
Store room, Staff room.

Main floor—General Reading room,  
Reference room, Children's room, Story-  
hour room, Librarian's office, Staff room.

Mezzanine floor—Auditorium (capacity  
250), Club room, Coat room.

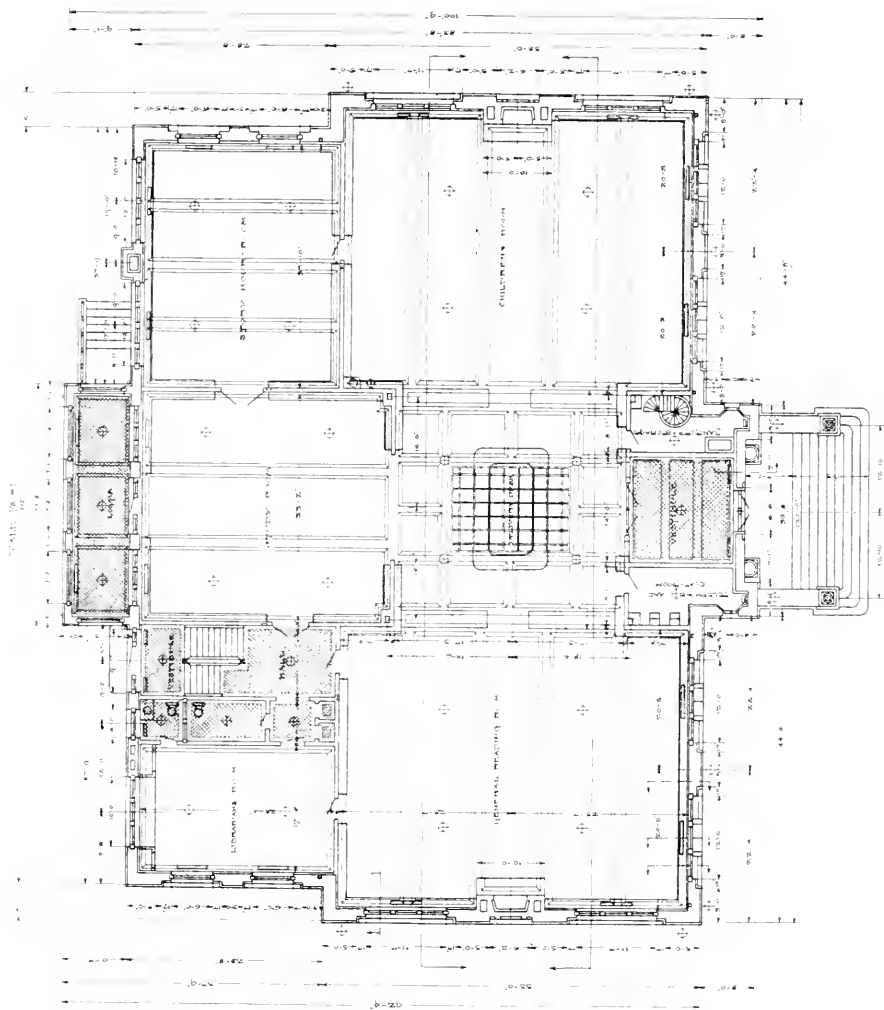
Balcony—Work room.

Source—Gift: Andrew Carnegie.

Cost—\$55,000.

Architect—G. A. Mueller.





Henry M. Udey Branch

# Edwin F. Conely Branch

*Erected 1912-13*

Location—Martin Street, near Michigan Avenue.

Dimensions—Lot 268' front x 175' deep.  
Building 81' x 49'.

Architecture—Renaissance type.

Construction—Foundation: Brick with concrete footings. Brick and stone.

Roof—Copper.

Heating—Indirect steam.

Ventilation—Steam and air.

Lighting—Indirect electric.

Woodwork—Oak.

Basement—Auditorium (capacity 350), Janitor's quarters, Boiler room, Repair room, Store room.

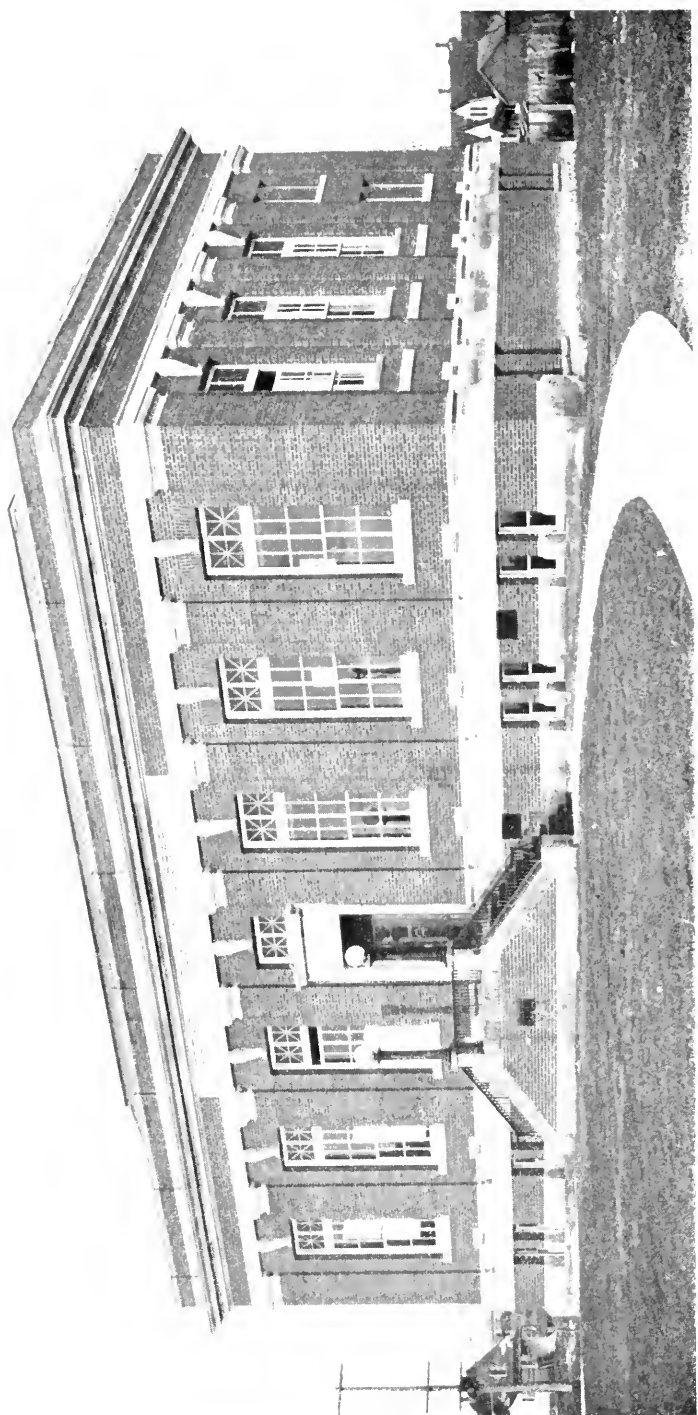
Main floor—General Reading room, Children's room, Story-hour room (with rolling partitions), Librarian's office, Staff rooms.

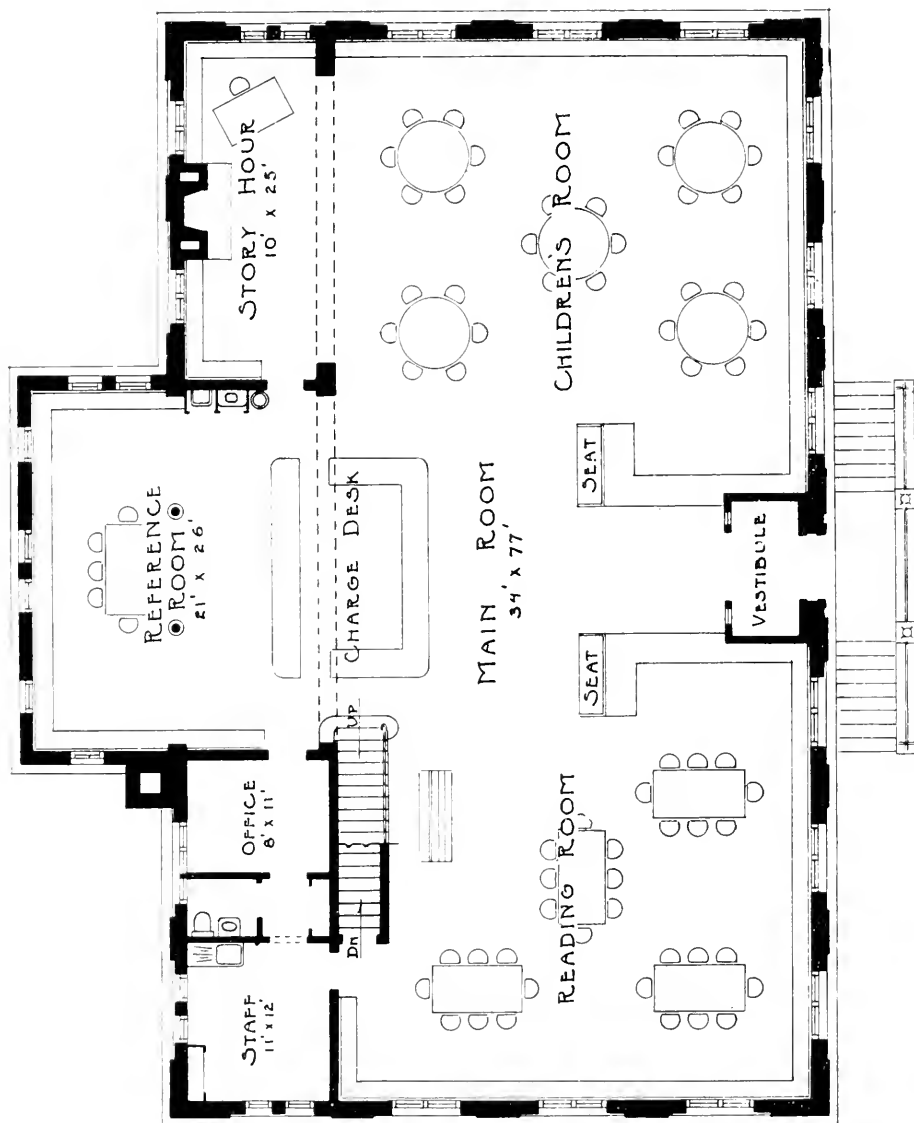
Mezzanine floor—Club room, Work room, Open gallery, Staff room, Reading porch.

Source—Gift: Andrew Carnegie.

Cost—\$40,000.

Architect—Hugh B. Clement.





Edwin F. Conely Branch

# Magnus Butzel Branch

*Erected 1912-13*

Location—Harper Avenue and East Grand Boulevard.

Dimensions—Lot 200' front x 180' deep.  
Building 96'6" x 52'.

Architecture—Tudor period.

Construction—Foundation: Brick with concrete footings. Tapestry brick laid in Dutch cross bond, trimmed with Bedford limestone. Floor, reinforced concrete.

Roof—Red tile.

Heating—Direct steam.

Ventilation—Direct steam—concealed radiators.

Lighting—Semi-indirect electric.

Woodwork—Fumed white oak.

Basement—Auditorium (capacity 200), Story-hour room, Mending room, Staff room, Boiler room, Janitor's quarters.

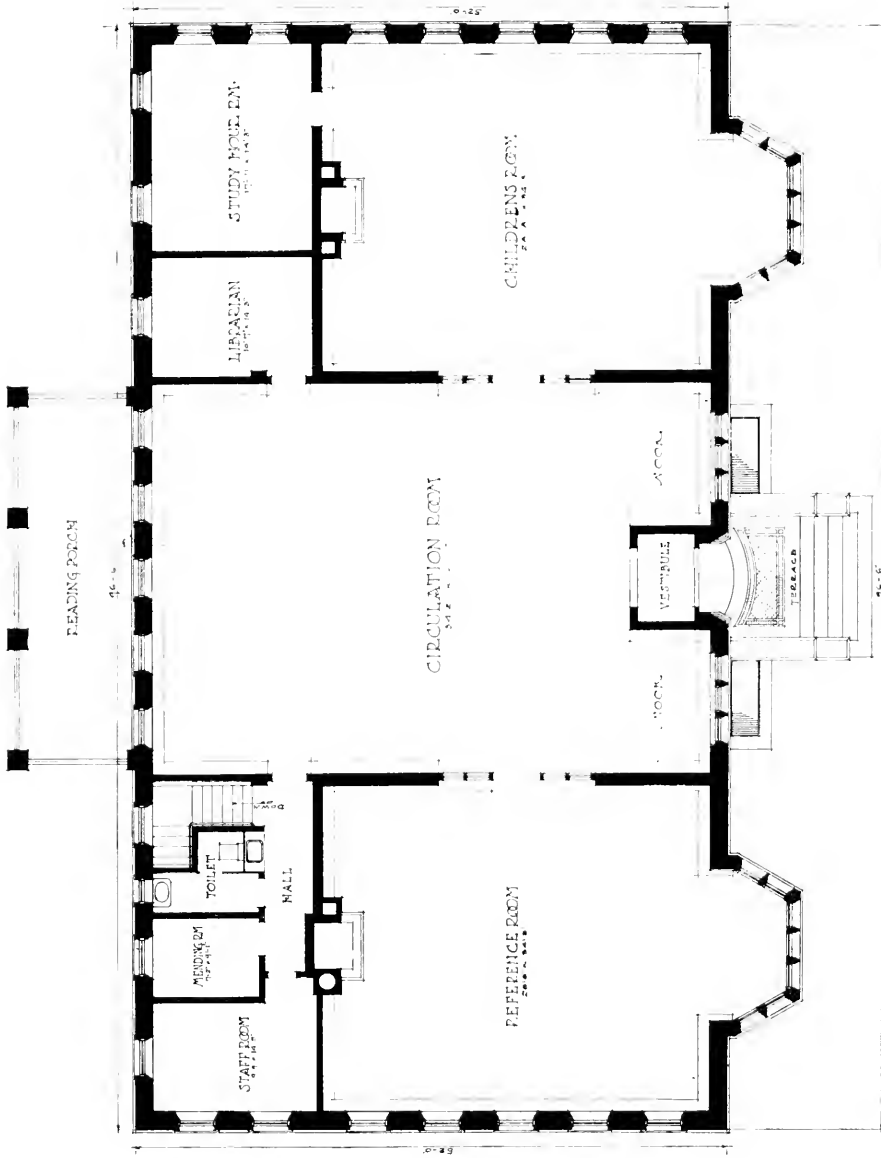
Main floor—General Reading room, Reference room, Intermediate room, Children's room, Librarian's office, Cataloguing room, Staff room.

Source—Gift: Andrew Carnegie.

Cost—\$40,000.

Architect—Albert Kahn.





Magnus Butzel Branch

# George Osius Branch

*Erected 1913-14*

Location—Gratiot Avenue between Newland and Seneca Avenues.

Dimensions—Lot (irregular) 135' front x 100' deep; 123' on Newland x 63'5" (rear).  
Building 95' x 92'.

Architecture—Modern adaptation of Jacobean type.

Construction—Foundation: Brick walls with concrete footings. Brick with stone trimmings.

Roof—Metal and composition covering over reinforced concrete construction.

Heating—Direct steam with automatic temperature regulating system.

Ventilation—Natural.

Lighting—Semi-indirect electric; in service portions of building, direct.

Woodwork—Red oak; Southern pine in basement.

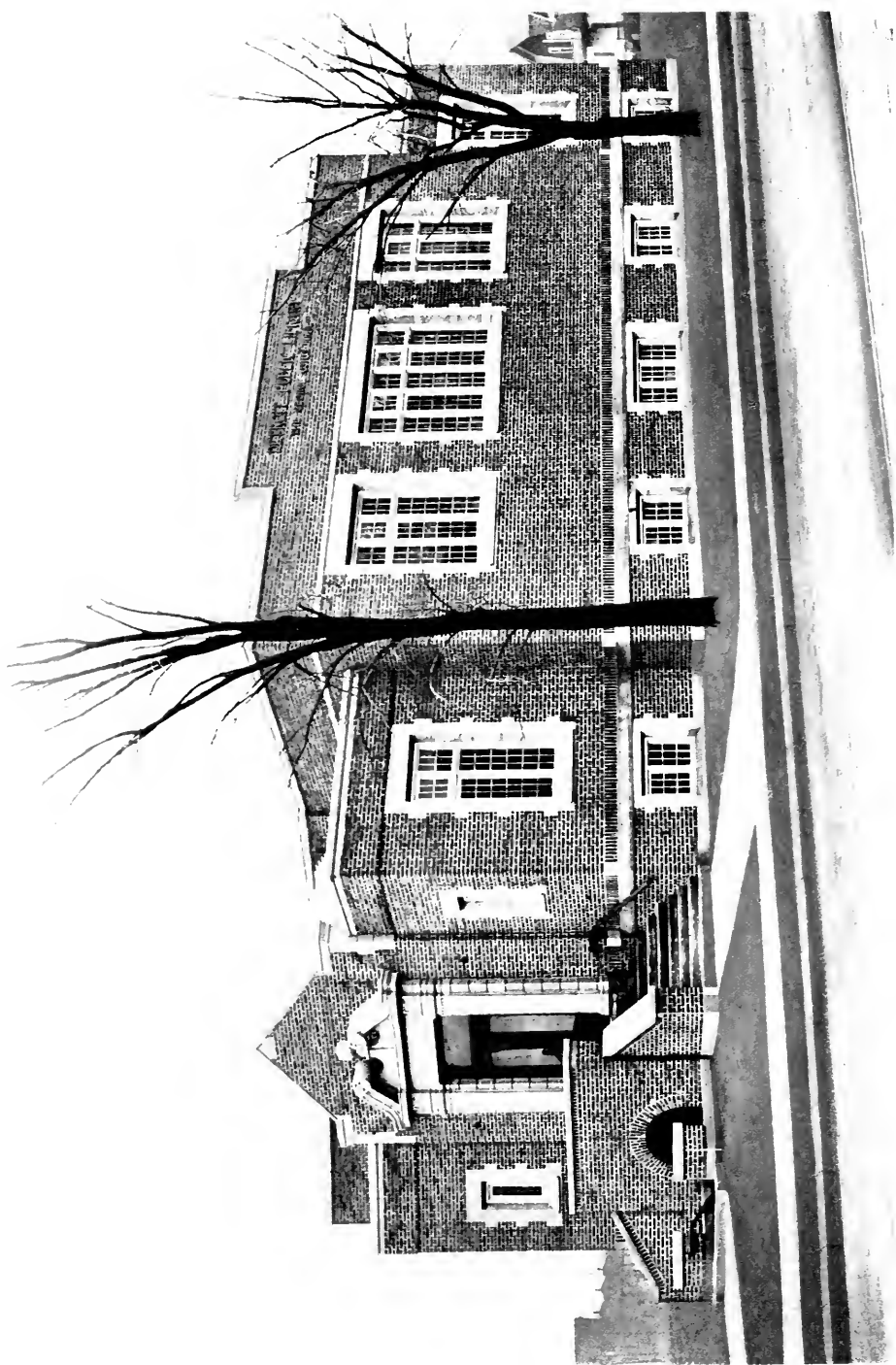
Basement—Auditorium (capacity 200), Club room, Staff room, Boiler room, Janitor's quarters.

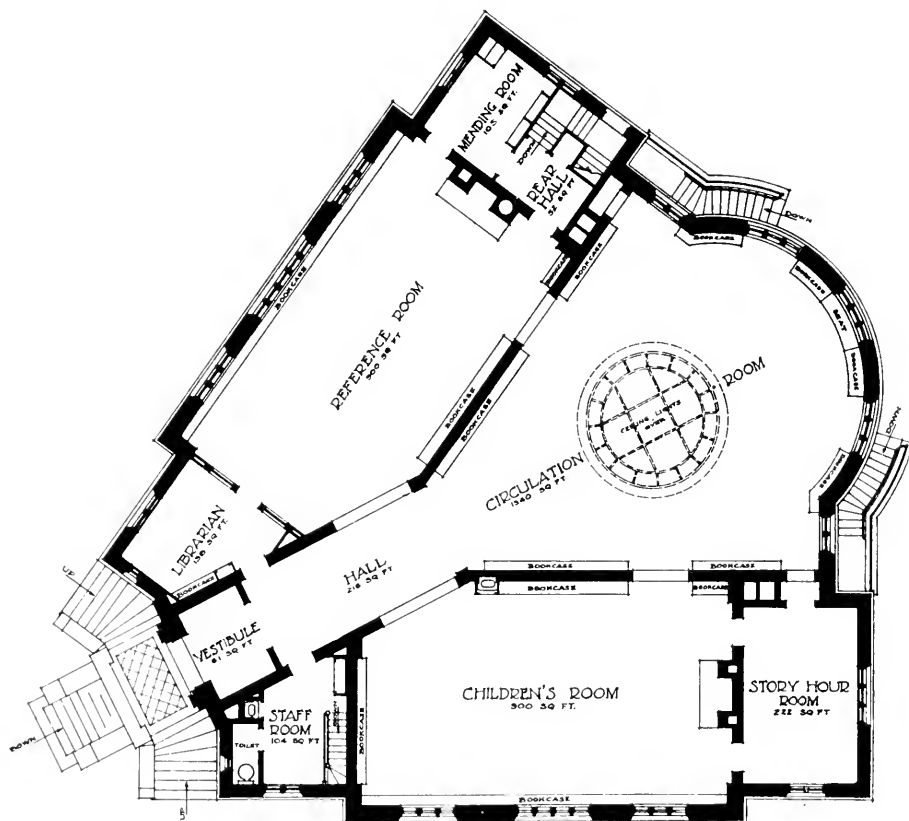
Main floor—General Reading room, Children's room, Story-hour room, Librarian's office.

Source—Gift: Andrew Carnegie.

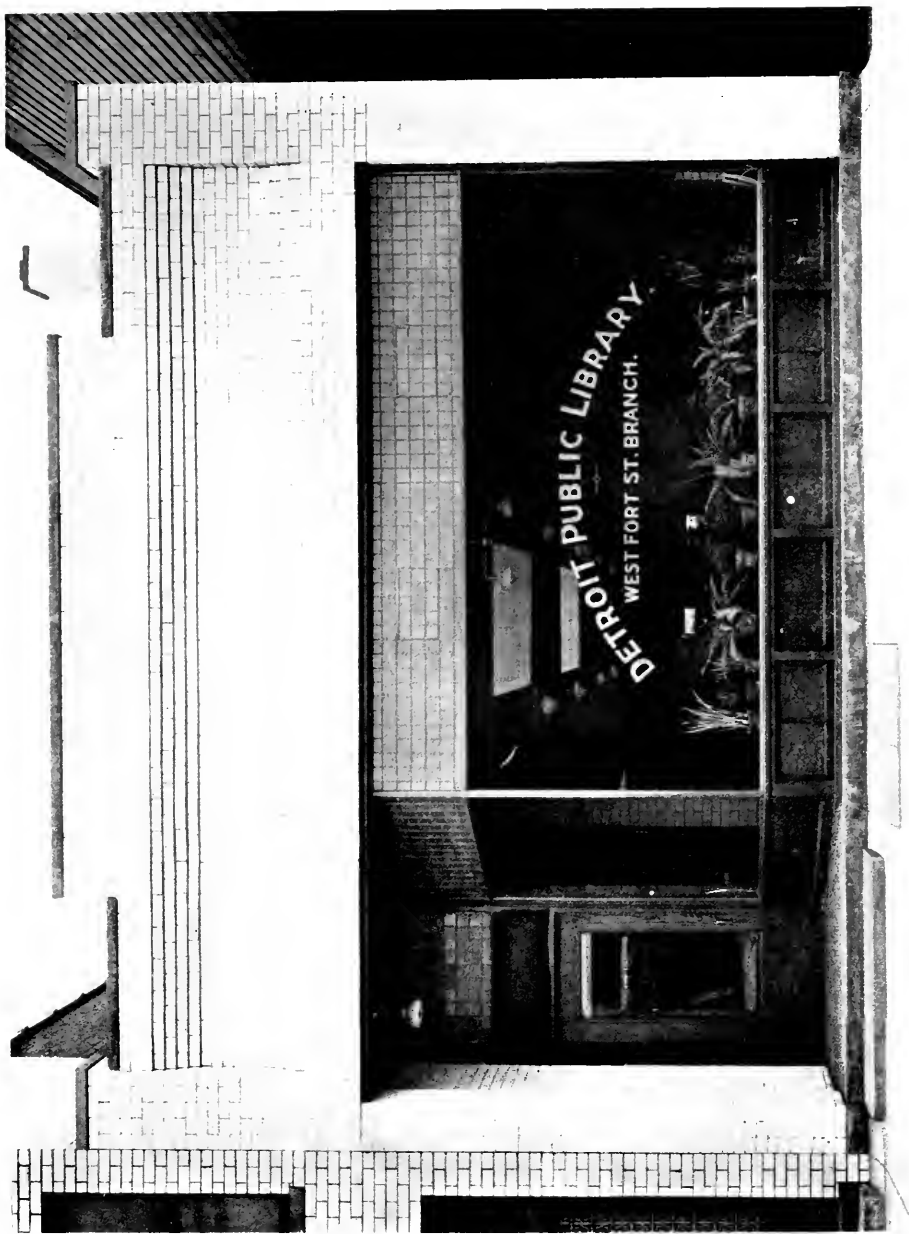
Cost—\$40,000.

Architects—Donaldson & Meier.





George Osius Branch



West Fort Street Branch  
(Rented Quarters)

1503 West Fort Street  
Dimensions: Building, 25' x 100'

"All in the day's work!"



Hastings Street Branch  
(Rented Quarters)

540-542 Hastings Street  
Dimensions: Building, 32' x 40'



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